

tended enough to be dangerous. The bridges themselves are under the constant fire of the French and American guns; two of them were destroyed yesterday when crowded with troops.

AMERICANS BEAR BRUNT OF BATTLE

Fight Beside French and Bend Enemy Line.

LONDON, July 16.—After a day of desperate and furious fighting, the brunt of which was borne by the French and American troops on the Marne, and the point of the old German salient. It seems clear to-night that the German offensive in its first stage has been definitely checked for the time being.

Not only did the Germans fail to make any additional gains, even locally, but despite the use of enormous masses of troops and attacks repeated time after time the net result to-night is that the Americans by brilliant counter attacks regained the villages of Fossey and Crezanoy, while the French, aided by the Americans, immediately on their left, recaptured St. Agnan and La Chapelle-Monthodon, which are close by.

By these victories the Allies have greatly improved their positions at the most critical point in the battle front. To the northeast, between Dormans and Rheims, where the front is held by French and Italian troops, repeated attacks were made by the Germans in an effort to extend their gains of yesterday, but the Allies presented an unbreakable front and the Germans gained nothing.

Further to the east, in the neighborhood of Prunay, which is six miles east of Rheims, similar efforts were made by large forces of German troops to break or at least bend the French line, but here these efforts resulted only in a minor gain.

The Herin report to-night asserts that the Germans have taken 13,000 prisoners in this drive. It is said that the German infantry stormed the steep slopes south of the Marne and under cover of their attack bridges were constructed over the river and a large force crossed.

The Associated Press correspondent with the French army, telegraphing to-night, says that the Germans in the Marne, was the scene this morning of terrible fighting, in which French and American troops were resisting most valiantly against the German onslaught.

The Germans have crossed the Marne at various places, giving them control over twelve miles of the southern bank of the stream between Oland and Marneville.

The town of Oland lies about two and one-half miles east of Chateau Thierry and Marneville-Pont about nine and one-half miles northwest of Epervier.

This operation cost them dearly, five bridges being destroyed as the troops were passing over, while hundreds of their men are believed to have met death from the machine guns and bombs of the Allies.

East of this point the Germans succeeded in ascending the river about a mile. Strong columns which crossed the Marne tried throughout the day to ascend the river on both banks toward Epervier. Their efforts were met steadily by the French, who contested every foot of ground.

Battles proceeded simultaneously on the right and left banks of the river. The position is somewhat confused to-night and it is difficult to tell where the opposing columns are.

The German drive by this movement evidently to turn the strong positions, formed by the forest and mountain, of Rheims from the south, as an effort at a frontal attack would probably lead to disaster.

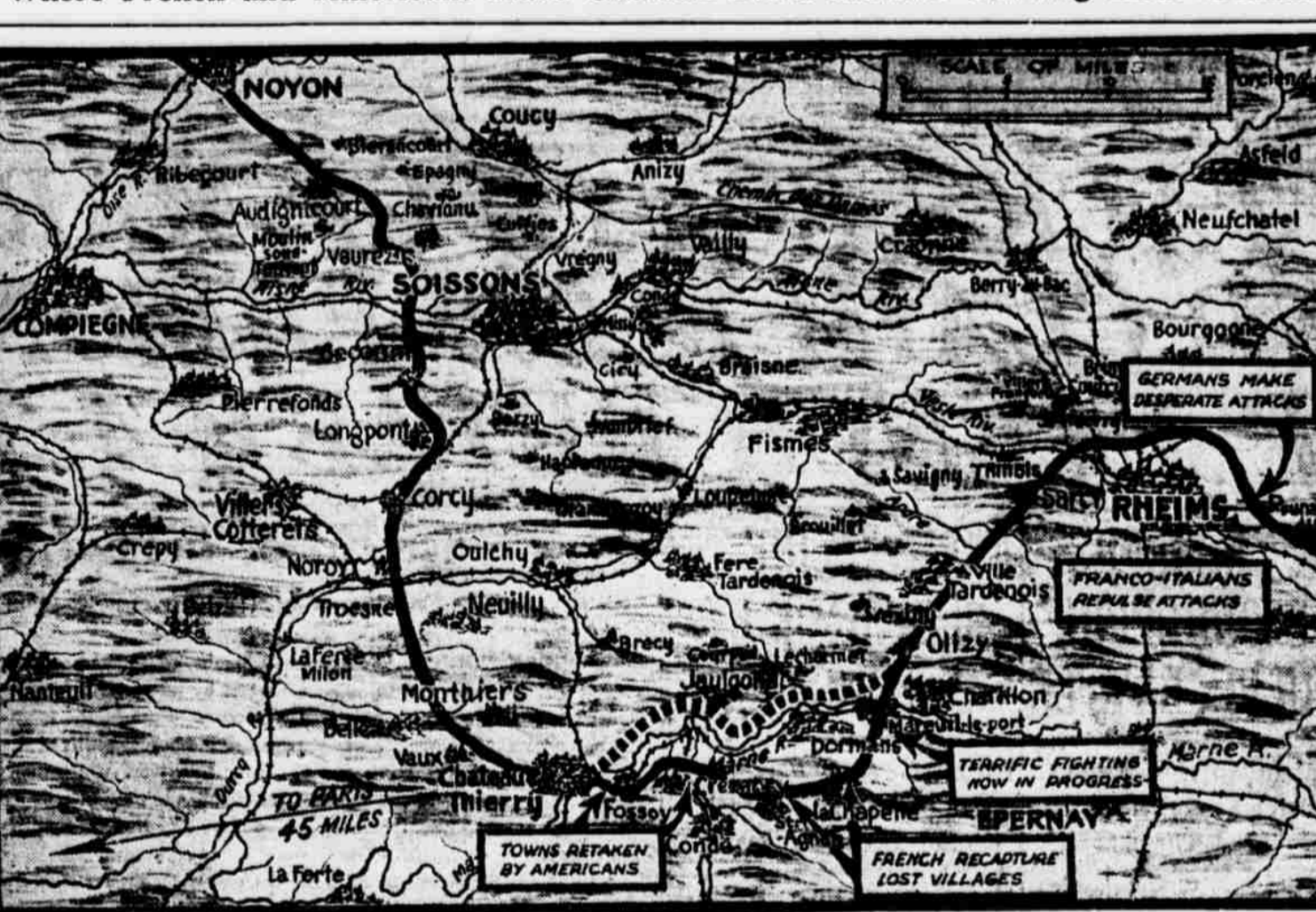
Italians in the Fighting.

Other news from the front in progress north of the Marne, on the wooded and around Marfaux, where Italian troops are participating.

Several German prisoners when interviewed declared they had been told that this offensive would enforce the German conditions of peace on the Allies. The battle has been characterized by them as the "peace offensive."

The captives added that the number of men thrown into the line on this occasion was fully equal to the total forces utilized in any other battle since the war.

Where French and Americans Have Checked Drive and Are Winning Back Ground.



WITH a brilliancy and snap which has not been surpassed in the war, the French and American troops are counter attacking south of the Marne in the Chateau Thierry and Dormans region and have already won back the villages of Fossey, Crezanoy, St. Agnan and La Chapelle, occupying the hills immediately north of them, which dominate that part of the valley of the Marne. The heaviest fighting, still in progress at the time the latest reports were received last night, was around Marneville-Pont. No reports have been received of the results.

those identified including the Prussian and Bavarian Guard, Saxons, Silesians and Wurtembergers.

30 Divisions in Enemy Line.

From a captured map it is evident that the German's main attack was intended to be down the Marne Valley into Epervier. There is every indication that the enemy intended the attack should be a really big one. Thirty divisions so far have been identified. Some of them come from the army of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, so it is believed there is little likelihood of the Germans launching another attack while this one is on.

The German guns were busy during the night in the region southwest of Albert and showed some activity at various other points on the northern part of the British front.

All the divisions have been identified as representing the elite of the German army, showing that Germany on Monday delivered an extremely powerful effort. The German drive was extremely heavy.

Never before were the enemy losses so high. Piles of bodies cover the ground. The fighting of the Americans and Italians was extremely brilliant.

In the region of Prunay the heavy attacks of the enemy were repulsed outright. The German losses at that point are estimated as 65 per cent of the effectives engaged.

NEW DRIVE "STORM OF PEACE."

Paris Correspondent Says Best German Troops Are Used.

PARIS, July 16.—The German offensive has taken on a scale equal to that launched on the 2d of March, says a dispatch filed from the Marne battle front to-day by the correspondent of the Times. Fighting continued this morning, the dispatch says, in a violent storm of shells and machine gun fire.

The weather was clearing at noon. An impression of confidence throughout the armies is indicated by the latest despatches from various parts of the battle front.

Elite German armies are engaged along the sixty miles of fighting front, the correspondent adds, they including three of the most powerful divisions of the German army, the Imperial Corps Guards with picked regiments from Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Saxony and Silesian Prussia.

The battle has been baptized "Friedenssturm," or "Storm of Peace," the correspondent reports.

620 CAPTURED IN ALBANIA.

Allies Take Villages on the Right Bank of Devoli.

On the eastern side of the salient, between Verneuil and Rheims, held by the French and Italian troops, where the Germans made some gains on Monday, furious attempts were made to advance further, but all of these were checked.

Near Prunay, five or six miles east of Rheims, the Germans also made attacks in force in efforts to break through the French line, but failed to make any progress.

On the whole, the Allies' lines were maintained intact throughout the battle front or were materially advanced.

The most violent fighting was in the western sector, between Dormans and Fossey, twenty-eight miles southwest of Rheims. On this seven mile front the enemy made desperate efforts to cross the Marne in the direction of Conde.

East of Rheims the attack began at Port Pomme and extended across the Champagne plain to Massiges, only a few miles short of the Argonne forest, with the mass of Moronvilliers as the central point.

In the Champagne section the first rush of the German assault was broken by the French army; to the west of Rheims heavy fighting is still in progress with the Americans, French and Italian steadily gaining the advantage.

The French had calculated with extraordinary accuracy the exact front or front on which the attack would be made, and this was followed by the infantry assault, which in the eastern sector was supported by a large number of tanks.

OUR TROOPS SHOW FRESH RESOURCES

Continued from First Page.

rage fire, which they kept up for three hours. Then they attacked with rifles, grenades and trench mortars. We dropped back to a small cave when the enemy began crossing the river, and presently found ourselves attacked by fifty Germans.

There were only seven of us and we were unprepared. Some one in the cave yelled: "Come on. We might as well make a fight as surrender." There for all of us, spraying the Germans with our rifle fire. Four of us got back to our company and helped drive the Germans across the river. I myself saw a number of Germans drown while retreating across the water.

A private in a Mississippi regiment gave me this account of the behavior of a company of engineers with whom he fought during the German attack on the river bank, where we shot as many of the advancing Germans as we could before they came up the bank from their boats. We were heavily outnumbered and had to drop back then, but we brought in quite a few prisoners. I lugged six along myself.

The Colonel of a California regiment of artillery, whose name I am not permitted to give, told me that the Americans were ordered to lay down their baggage shortly after midnight on the north bank of the Marne. In his regiment, the order was for the batteries to fire shrapnel at pointblank range and maintain the fire until the guns refused to work any longer.

At one point which the correspondents were permitted to visit the Germans had had eight pontoon bridges across the Marne. The American units a little further along the river had driven a large force of Germans into the woods and held them there. At another point the enemy shell fire destroyed the American telegraph and telephone lines, putting them out of commission for the time being, so that word did not get to headquarters telling that the Germans had succeeded in crossing the river at that point until 5 o'clock the following morning.

BAKER WARNS U. S. AGAINST OPTIMISM

Proud of Troops' Achievements, but Fears Worst Is Not Yet Over.

SEES HAIT TO THRUST Americans Engaged in Large Numbers for First Time During War.

Special Dispatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, July 16.—By throwing in fresh American forces as part of his reserves Gen. Poch has stopped the Germans south of the Marne, the point of greatest penetration in their fifth offensive, and has even thrown them back some distance toward the river.

This is the construction placed upon the day's news to-night by officers at the War Department, who saw reason to feel proud of the achievements of the Americans engaged in large numbers for the first time in one of the great battles of the war.

While to-day's report increased the confidence felt that the fifth drive of the Germans had already lost much of its momentum and that the Americans engaged along the Marne are not to be shaken by any subsequent attacks, Secretary Baker took pains to warn against too much optimism at this time. "First day optimism," was the way Mr. Baker characterized it.

May Be Just Beginning.

The feeling at the War Department and reflected by Mr. Baker in this warning is that yesterday and to-day were very probably only the beginning of the fighting during the day.

Many American divisions are now thought to be in the thick of the fighting, possibly more than on either side at Gettysburg.

The following was issued late to-night: At midnight the War Department was not in receipt of late cable despatches from Gen. Bliss or Gen. Pershing, but it was in communication with the military attaché at Paris. Information from this last source does not deal specifically with the day's point of attack and defense, but brings information of heavy losses sustained by the enemy's attacking forces and of his failure to make substantial progress against the allied resistance during the last twenty-four hours.

Encouraging Report Received.

It was understood that the despatch from Paris received this evening was most encouraging and stated the American line had not budged an inch during the day.

The Americans appear to have been drawn heavily upon by the French. It is believed here that those who would naturally be called upon would be the divisions of the First Army Corps, the regulars, marines and National Guard troops of the New England, Rainbow, Sunset divisions and the Thirty second division, which have been in the line since the first day of the offensive.

That a considerable part of Poch's reserves are Americans has been known for some time. Consequently it is believed here that as the fighting has progressed more and more Americans may have been brought up.

American Forces Increased.

When the battle started the Americans were along the Marne only a few miles only, the remainder being north of Chateau Thierry. From the fact that the Americans have in conjunction with the French recaptured La

Japanese Battleship Blows Up, 500 Dead

TOKIO, July 16.—The Japanese battleship Kawachi of 21,420 tons displacement, blew up and sank in Tokoyama Bay, 150 miles northwest of Nagasaki, on July 12. Five hundred members of the crew lost their lives.

The battleship Kawachi was built at Kure in 1912. She carried a complement of 960 officers and men. The warship was 500 feet long, eighty-four feet beam and drew twenty-eight feet of water. Her armament consisted of twelve 12 inch guns, ten 6 inch guns, eight 4.7 inch guns and twelve 12 pounders. She also was equipped with five 18 inch torpedo tubes.

Chapelle-Monthodon, which is eight miles east of their former position, is apparent here that the number of Americans has been greatly increased since the battle started.

Gen. Pershing's despatches so far have made no mention of the number of Americans engaged nor of their losses. Following the receipt of the early despatches to-day the War Department issued a statement.

"Despatches received from Gen. Pershing and Gen. Bliss confirm the press accounts of yesterday's fighting. American troops west of Burelmin counter attacked, captured prisoners, established and are holding their advanced positions. Germany's barrage was met by counter barrage which in many places prevented the advance of their infantry. Full reports covering the entire front are of course not yet available. The French are continuing their main drive to the effective French counter attack, which cut up the German troops as they advanced to the attack. They also suffered severely at all points where they fought their way across the Marne."

As in previous offensives, the Germans failed to break through on the extreme wings; their attack was held on both sides. The penetration across the Marne is of much less importance than it would have been otherwise. East of Rheims, Gen. Gouraud, "the lion of the Argonne," repulsed the attempt to turn the French right flank, preventing the Germans from passing beyond the overlying zone of the French positions.

American troops had the glory of passing the Germans from turning the left flank of the Allies' positions in the bend of the Marne east of Chateau Thierry, which is the western extremity of the German advance. Here the Americans prevented a famous German division from crossing the river on their left from the direction of Mont St. Tere, while in the upper bend between Mery and Reully they had the Germans who had succeeded in crossing, cutting them up with artillery and machine gun fire and capturing 1,500 prisoners, including the staff of a German brigade.

Further to the east, reports of American troops fighting in the neighborhood of Chery would indicate that one of the American divisions had been hurried up to the assistance of the British and were holding back the Germans on the line of their deepest penetration. Combining with the base of the pocket which the Germans have driven south of the Marne and which they are struggling to widen.

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It is to be expected that there will be several days still while the Germans are making up their minds as to the nature of the attack can take place. The number of men employed and the extent of the battle front indicate that the pressure of the attack is being maintained, and there is little prospect that while the present battle lasts another big attack will be launched by the enemy.

WILSON TO FOREGO VACATION.

President Decides to Stick to Job at Washington.

WASHINGTON, July 16.—There will be no vacation this year for President Wilson. With matters of tremendous importance demanding his attention day after day the President has decided that he cannot leave his desk.

It was definitely announced at the White House that he will remain in Washington throughout the summer.

FOE'S MOMENTUM DEFINITELY HALTED

All Headway Apparently Is Checked After First Day of Fighting.

ENEMY RESERVES USED

Allies Have Evidence That One-third of Rupprecht's Men Were Used.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, July 16.—The momentum of the fifth great German offensive this year appears to have lost its headway after the first day's fighting. Reports from the battle front show that while fierce fighting is going on between Rheims and the Marne and in the territory south of the Marne, where the Germans drove in a pocket eight miles wide between Marneville-Pont and Chateau Thierry to a depth of three and a half miles, there is no renewal of any extended movement, which indicates that the Germans have suffered a severe check.

They have not penetrated the French battle positions except where they crossed the Marne and east of Rheims, near Prunay, where they made a slight advance, while their losses have been extremely heavy. This was due largely to the effective French counter attack, which cut up the German troops as they advanced to the attack. They also suffered severely at all points where they fought their way across the Marne."

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Prof. Ganne Coming to U. S.

PARIS, July 16.—Prof. Maurice Ganne of the Central College, by an official letter issued to-day, is appointed a commissioner of the French High Commission to the United States. He will substitute for Mr. Level, who is Director of Supplies of the Commission at Washington.

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